

West Hartford Town Council Meeting

Monday, December 16, 2019

Generated by Cindy A Porrini on Tuesday, December 17, 2019

Members present

Councilor Blanks, Mayor Cantor, Deputy Mayor Davidoff, Councilor Fay, Councilor Gold, Councilor Kerrigan, Councilor Sweeney, Councilor Wenograd, Councilor Williams

Meeting called to order at 7:30 PM

1. Meeting Opening

A. Call to Order 7:30 p.m.

B. Pledge of Allegiance

C. Roll Call **ALL PRESENT**

At 7:40 p.m., Motion by Mayor Cantor, second by Deputy Mayor Davidoff to recess the meeting for five minutes.

2. Approval of Minutes

A. Town Council Minutes 11-12-2019 & 11-19-2019

APPROVED

Motion by Deputy Mayor Davidoff, second by Councilor Kerrigan.

YES: Councilor Blanks, Mayor Cantor, Deputy Mayor Davidoff, Councilor Fay, Councilor Gold, Councilor Kerrigan, Councilor Sweeney, Councilor Wenograd, Councilor Williams

B. Public Hearing Minutes 11-12-2019 Application 1553-1559 New Britain Avenue; 11-12-2019 Ordinance Permitting Sponsorship Signs in Municipal Parks; 11-12-2019 Resolution Authorizing Town Manager to Execute a Lease with Universalist Church.

APPROVED

Motion by Deputy Mayor Davidoff, second by Councilor Kerrigan.

YES: Councilor Blanks, Mayor Cantor, Deputy Mayor Davidoff, Councilor Fay, Councilor Gold, Councilor Kerrigan, Councilor Sweeney, Councilor Wenograd, Councilor Williams

3. Public Forum NO ONE SPOKE

4. Consideration of Consent Calendar

ITEMS MOVED 6E & 11A - 11E

5. Unfinished Business

A. Substitute Resolution Adopting Amendments to Standing Rules of the Town Council for 2019-2021 Term. (4)

ADOPTED, 9-0

Motion by Deputy Mayor Davidoff, second by Councilor Kerrigan.

YES: Councilor Blanks, Mayor Cantor, Deputy Mayor Davidoff, Councilor Fay, Councilor Gold, Councilor Kerrigan, Councilor Sweeney, Councilor Wenograd, Councilor Williams

WHEREAS the Town Council of West Hartford has followed a set of standing rules for many years; and

WHEREAS amendments to these rules may become necessary or advisable over time as business practices and legal requirements change; and

WHEREAS Town staff have recommended a number of changes to the current standing rules to keep pace with such changes

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF WEST HARTFORD THAT the Standing Rules of the Town Council for the 2019-2021 term are amended in accord with the document attached hereto.
(Standing Rules referenced in Substitute Resolution is on file in Town Clerk's Office)

6. New Business

A. Application filed on behalf of FW CT-Corbin's Corner Shopping Center, LLC, owner of 1459 New Britain Avenue, located within Special Development District (SDD) #6. The application seeks permission to undertake a renovation of the shopping center including alterations to the existing building façade; construction of an approximately 2,550 s.f. addition to the rear of the Trader Joes; and either the demolition and replacement of the now vacant Jared's Jewelers building with a new 7,360 s.f. restaurant building with outdoor dining or the redesign of the existing building's exterior to accommodate a restaurant use and outdoor dining. In addition, associated improvements including the reconfiguration of the parking layout, installation of new landscaping, lighting and pedestrian amenities and changes to sign criteria and conditions are proposed. **(This agenda item will be the subject of a formal Public Hearing and may not be addressed pursuant to Town Council Rules.)** (759)

SET FOR PUBLIC HEARING ON JANUARY 28, 2020 AT 6:15 P.M. AND REFERRED TO TPZ, DRAC AND CRCOG.

B. Application filed on behalf of the American School for the Deaf for the historic restoration and reconstruction of the Gallaudet Monument to be located on the front lawn of the school campus at 137-139 North Main Street. The application includes associated landscape amenities and site lighting. **(This agenda item will be the subject of a formal Public Hearing and may not be addressed pursuant to Town Council Rules.)** (1038)

SET FOR PUBLIC HEARING ON FEBRUARY 11, 2020 AT 7:15 P.M.

Motion by Deputy Mayor Davidoff, second by Councilor Kerrigan.

YES: Councilor Blanks, Mayor Cantor, Deputy Mayor Davidoff, Councilor Fay, Councilor Gold, Councilor Kerrigan, Councilor Sweeney, Councilor Wenograd, Councilor Williams

C. Resolution Delegating to the Town Manager and the Director of Financial Services the Authority to Issue Bonds or Temporary Borrowings on Behalf of the Town of West Hartford. (953)

ADOPTED

Motion by Deputy Mayor Davidoff, second by Councilor Kerrigan.

YES: Councilor Blanks, Mayor Cantor, Deputy Mayor Davidoff, Councilor Fay, Councilor Gold, Councilor Kerrigan, Councilor Sweeney, Councilor Wenograd, Councilor Williams

WHEREAS, the Town of West Hartford has the power to incur indebtedness by issuing bonds or temporary borrowings from time to time for such purposes and upon such terms, and to such extent as authorized by the Connecticut General Statutes, as amended; and

WHEREAS, the Town Council authorizes the issuance of bonds for particular purposes and projects from time to time by ordinance duly enacted (bond ordinances); and

WHEREAS, certain of the bond ordinances require the aggregate principal amount of bonds, the annual installments of principal, the date and timing of the issue and sale, and other terms, details, and particulars of such bonds including approval of the rate or rates of interest thereon to be determined by the Town Council at the time of issuance in accordance with the requirements of the Connecticut General Statutes, as amended; and

WHEREAS, the Town Council is desirous of delegating the authority to make such determinations regarding the details and particulars of issuing bonds or temporary borrowings to the Town Manager and Director of Financial Services in a continuing resolution to be effective during the Council's term of office unless sooner terminated.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF WEST HARTFORD that the Town Manager and Director of Financial Services are hereby delegated the authority to make such determinations regarding the issuance of bonds or temporary borrowings on behalf of and in the best interest of the Town of West Hartford. This delegation is effective from November 19, 2019, and shall continue and be effective during this

Council's term of office which expires on November 16, 2021, unless the Council revokes this delegation of authority before that time.

D. Amended Resolution Amending the Fees for Various Recreation Facilities. (194)

ADOPTED AS AMENDED

(Amended Resolution referenced is on file in Town Clerk's Office)

Motion by Deputy Mayor Davidoff, second by Councilor Kerrigan.

YES: Councilor Blanks, Mayor Cantor, Deputy Mayor Davidoff, Councilor Fay, Councilor Gold, Councilor Kerrigan, Councilor Sweeney, Councilor Wenograd, Councilor Williams

Motion to Amend the Resolution to make no changes to the Schedule of Fees and Charges at Outdoor Pools, Elmwood Community Center and Miscellaneous.

Motion by Councilor Davidoff, second by Councilor Kerrigan.

APPROVED, 9-0.

Motion to Adopt the Amended Resolution Amending the Fees For Various Recreation Facilities.

Motion by Councilor Davidoff, second by Councilor Kerrigan.

ADOPTED, 9-0.

E. Resolution to Appropriate \$89,262 in Grant Funds Awarded by the Connecticut Department of Transportation's Highway Safety Office under the Federal Highway Safety Program for the Purpose of Comprehensive DUI Enforcement. (195)

ADOPTED

Motion by Deputy Mayor Davidoff, second by Councilor Kerrigan.

YES: Councilor Blanks, Mayor Cantor, Deputy Mayor Davidoff, Councilor Fay, Councilor Gold, Councilor Kerrigan, Councilor Sweeney, Councilor Wenograd, Councilor Williams

WHEREAS, the Town of West Hartford applied for and was awarded federal funds by the Connecticut Department of Transportation's Highway Safety Office under the Federal Highway Safety Program (Comprehensive DUI Enforcement - State Project Number: 0200-0722-DR) in the amount of \$89,262 to provide comprehensive Driving Under the Influence (DUI) enforcement program activities from November 14, 2019 through September 12, 2020, and

WHEREAS, the objectives of this program are to reduce the number of crashes, injuries and fatalities from impaired driving through increased high-visibility enforcement activities and to communicate to the public, through media venues, the increased level of DUI enforcement so that drivers will realize the risks and consequences of operating a vehicle while under the influence and, therefore, deter that behavior, and

WHEREAS, the Town of West Hartford desires to utilize such funds for additional DUI patrol activities, in accordance with both federal and state regulations, policies, and procedures that govern the use of highway safety funds, and

WHEREAS, the estimated cost of these DUI patrol activities is \$89,262, which will be fully funded with this grant,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF WEST HARTFORD THAT grant funds under the Federal Highway Safety Program are appropriated for the purpose of expanded DUI enforcement activities in accordance with the terms of the grant, and the fiscal year 2019-2020 General Fund budget is revised as follows:

Increase Estimated Revenue

01-220410-20101-9070	Federal Grant Revenue	\$89,262
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Increase Appropriations

01-220410-20101-1010	Overtime	\$89,262
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F. Resolution Authorizing the Town Manager to Execute an Amendment to the Agreement Between the State of Connecticut and the Town of West Hartford for the Design and Construction of the Multi-Use Trout Brook Trail Phase V (Farmington Avenue to Fern Street) (900)

ADOPTED

Motion by Deputy Mayor Davidoff, second by Councilor Kerrigan.

YES: Councilor Blanks, Mayor Cantor, Deputy Mayor Davidoff, Councilor Fay, Councilor Gold, Councilor Kerrigan, Councilor Sweeney, Councilor Wenograd, Councilor Williams

WHEREAS, the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection – Bureau of Outdoor Recreation, State Parks Division selected Phase V of the Town of West Hartford’s multi-use Trout Brook Trail (Farmington Avenue to Fern Street) to receive a grant not to exceed \$224K for the design and construction of the project; and

WHEREAS, the initial agreement between the parties was scheduled to expire in 2018, but the State of Connecticut and West Hartford entered into an agreement to extend the period for grant funding to February 26, 2020; and

WHEREAS, now, circumstances and discussions between West Hartford and the State of Connecticut have resulted in the need to extend the term of the agreement an additional twenty-four months, to February 26, 2022;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF WEST HARTFORD that the Town Manager, Matthew W. Hart, is hereby authorized to sign an amendment to the agreement entitled “Recreational Trails Grant (Trout Brook Multi-Use Trail Phase 5)” in substantially the form attached hereto extending the agreement term to February 26, 2022.

G. Resolution Setting the Town Clerk's Compensation. (1170)

ADOPTED, 7-2

Motion by Deputy Mayor Davidoff, second by Councilor Wenograd.

YES: Councilor Blanks, Mayor Cantor, Deputy Mayor Davidoff, Councilor Gold, Councilor Kerrigan, Councilor Sweeney, Councilor Wenograd

NO: Councilor Fay, Councilor Williams

WHEREAS, the salary of the Town Clerk is set by the Town Council; and

WHEREAS, under Connecticut statutes, the Town Clerk’s salary can only be altered at the beginning of the term or the midpoint in the four year term of office for that position; and

WHEREAS, the Town Clerk’s current salary is well below that paid to Town Clerks in municipalities with similar responsibilities and similar size; and

WHEREAS, in West Hartford the Town Clerk also serves as the Council Clerk, whereas in other municipalities the duties are split between two positions;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL THAT the salary of the Town Clerk should be adjusted to reflect the incumbent’s responsibilities and experience, including the addition of Council Clerk duties, as well as to be commensurate with comparable positions in other municipalities, and is hereby set at \$92,664.00 effective at the commencement of the term of office scheduled to begin on January 6, 2020, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the salary of the Town Clerk shall be set at \$101,930 effective on January 6, 2022.

H. Resolution Setting the Town Manager's Compensation. (895)

ADOPTED, 7-2

Motion by Deputy Mayor Davidoff, second by Councilor Wenograd.

YES: Councilor Blanks, Mayor Cantor, Deputy Mayor Davidoff, Councilor Gold, Councilor Kerrigan, Councilor Sweeney, Councilor Wenograd

NO: Councilor Fay, Councilor Williams

WHEREAS Matthew W. Hart commenced his tenure as Town Manager on July 31, 2017, with an annual salary of \$165,000; and

WHEREAS pursuant to his employment agreement with the Town, the Town Council is required to review the Manager's compensation on July 1st of each year; and

WHEREAS an increase in the Town Manager's compensation is well-deserved and appropriate

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF WEST HARTFORD THAT the Town Manager's compensation shall be adjusted as follows:

- Increase salary by 2.25% retroactive to July 1, 2018
- Increase salary by 2.25% retroactive to July 1, 2019
- Increase deferred compensation to \$20,000 per year effective January 1, 2020
- Increase automobile allowance to \$6,000 per year effective January 1, 2020

I. Resolution to Appoint a Corporation Counsel for the 2019 – 2021 Term. (895)

ADOPTED, 8 (1 Abstained)

Motion by Deputy Mayor Davidoff, second by Councilor Wenograd.

YES: Councilor Blanks, Mayor Cantor, Deputy Mayor Davidoff, Councilor Fay, Councilor Gold, Councilor Kerrigan, Councilor Sweeney, Councilor Wenograd

Abstain: Councilor Williams

WHEREAS, pursuant to Chapter IV, Section 1 of the West Hartford Town Charter, the Town Council shall appoint a Corporation Counsel for a term of two years, to start one month after each new council takes office;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Town Council of West Hartford that Dallas Dodge has been appointed as Corporation Counsel to serve for a two-year term commencing on December 19, 2019, subject to the following terms and conditions:

1. Compensation shall be \$59,000 for each year.

7. Reports of Town Manager

Town Manager Matthew W. Hart presented his report to Council.

8. Announcements Upcoming events were reported by Mayor Cantor

9. Reports of Corporation Counsel **NO REPORT AT THIS TIME**

10. Appointments:

Board of Assessors

Theresa Szymanski reappointed for a term ending 12-31-2024

Board of Assessment Appeals

John O'Connell reappointed for a term ending 12-31-2022

John Dixon reappointed for a term ending 12-31-2022

Brian Sullivan reappointed as an alternate for a term ending 12-31-2022

Clean Energy Commission

Bernard Pelletier reappointed for a term ending 12-31-2025
Max DuBuisson reappointed for a term ending 12-31-2025

Conservation & Environment Commission

Stefanie Keohane reappointed for a term ending 12-31-2024

Design Review Advisory Committee

Kimberley Parsons-Whitaker reappointed for a term ending 12-31-2022

Historic District Commission

Cynthia Cormier reappointed for a term ending 12-31-2024
Deb Cohen reappointed as an alternate for a term ending 12-31-2024
Michael Margolis reappointed for a term ending 12-31-2024

Human Rights Commission

Dawn Ennis reappointed for a term ending 12-31-2022
Sarah Raskin reappointed for a term ending 12-31-2022
Denise Jackson-Riley reappointed for a term ending 12-31-2022

Parks & Recreation Advisory Board

Shawna Kutzman reappointed for a term ending 12-31-2022
Gregory Shimmer reappointed for a term ending 12-31-2022
Robin Collins reappointed for a term ending 12-31-2022

Pedestrian & Bicycle Commission

Daniel Firestone reappointed for a term ending 12-31-2024
Denisse Guterrez reappointed for a term ending 12-31-2024
Ken Livingston reappointed for a term ending 12-31-2024

Library Board

Anne Donovan reappointed for a term ending 12-31-2024

Senior Citizens Advisory Commission

Raymond Guenter reappointed for a term ending 12-31-2024

Zoning Board of Appeals

Olinda Morales reappointed as alternate for a term ending 12-31-2024

Commission on Veterans' Affairs

Garrett Sheehan reappointed for a term ending 12-31-2022

Commission for Persons with Disabilities

Erin Conneely reappointed for a term ending 12-31-2022

West Hartford Bloomfield Health District

Scott Aronson reappointed for a term ending 12-31-2024

Standing Committee Appointments:

1. Community Planning and Economic Dev.: Chair - Shari Cantor, Members: Beth Kerrigan, Lee Gold
2. Education Liaison: Chair - Shari Cantor, Members: Carol Blanks, Chris Williams
3. Finance & Administration Committee: Chair - Leon Davidoff, Members: Liam Sweeney, Mary Fay
4. Governmental Affairs: Chair - Beth Kerrigan, Members: Shari Cantor, Lee Gold
5. Human & Community Services: Chair - Liam Sweeney, Members: Ben Wenograd, Mary Fay
6. Public Safety: Chair - Carol Blanks, Members: Leon Davidoff, Chris Williams
7. Public Works & Facilities: Chair - Ben Wenograd, Members: Carol Blanks, Mary Fay
8. Rules Committee: Chair - Shari Cantor, Members: Leon Davidoff, Lee Gold

11. Reports of Standing or Special Committees

A. Town Plan & Zoning - RECENT PLANNING ACTION 228 Bloomfield Avenue; 847 South Quaker Lane; 840 North Main Street; 119 Flagg Road. (780) **RECEIVED**

B. Inland Wetland & Watercourse Agency - RECENT PLANNING ACTION 119 Flagg Road & 37 Fox Meadow Lane. (780) **RECEIVED**

C. Minutes from West Hartford Special Services District 11-12-2019 **RECEIVED**

D. Minutes from Rules Committee 12-4-2019 **RECEIVED**

E. Minutes from Finance Budget & Personnel Committee 12-4-2019 **RECEIVED**

12. Communications

A. From Laura Cordes (11-26-2019) resigning from the Greater Hartford Transit District. (321) **RECEIVED**

13. Consent Calendar **ADOPTED**

14. Petitions **NONE**

15. Executive Session

16. Adjournment at 9:28 PM

Motion by Mayor Cantor, second by Deputy Mayor Davidoff.

YES: Councilor Blanks, Mayor Cantor, Deputy Mayor Davidoff, Councilor Fay, Councilor Gold, Councilor Kerrigan, Councilor Sweeney, Councilor Wenograd, Councilor Williams

SUSPENSE:

A. Proclamation presented Jason Siegal, Director of Athletics for three state titles earned in one season.

B. Proclamation presented to Myra Stanfield, a 5th grader at Norfeldt School who was selected as the 2020 CT Kid Governor.

C. Proclamation presented to Pat Alair upon his retirement.



Essie S. Labrot
Town Clerk/Council Clerk